

Tuesday - September 26, 1978

Paul had some interesting Church History to tell us this morning as we traveled through the villages of Interlaken, Guten, Sigriswil, Fahrni, near Steffisburg, Thun, Amsoldingen, on our way to Niederstocken.

"Peter Brevant, a Swiss native, went to Denmark. While there he was contacted by the L.D.S. missionaries and was converted and baptized. Later, he returned to his Homeland Switzerland and did missionary work among his family and friends who readily accepted the Gospel. He contacted Church Officials in Utah and asked them to send someone to Switzerland with the authority to baptize. They sent Thomas B. Stenhouse, who later became an Apostle. Then Jacob F. Segrism, Margaret Nielson's great grandfather, came to Switzerland with the authority to baptize, according to the records of Reverend Howald of the Segriswil Reformed Church, recorded by the Clerk Santachi. Grandpa Segrism suffered persecution and was finally deported. Ulrich Buehler then became the first native presiding Elder in Switzerland. His wife was Anna Burgdorf. Johannes Kunz, our progenitor, was baptized by Ulrich Buehler."

The streets of Thun are very narrow. We could reach out the bus and touch the awnings on the shop windows. The population of Thun is 20,000 people. The Thun Lake is deep, but Lake Brienz is deeper.

The bus stopped at Niederstocken, the home of the Straubhaar family. Magdalena and Sophie Straubhaar, and William John and Jacob Kunz were born in this village. We met Eduard Schwendiman, a great grandson of Peter Straubhaar, who was a brother to Magdalena and Sophie. Eduard showed us the meadow where the old Straubhaar home was before it was torn down. We drove past the church where Grandpa William J. Kunz was christened. We took pictures, then traveled through Reutigen and on to Oey Dientigen. We arrived in time to see the cows come down off the alps from the summer dairies. Each spring the cows are decorated with flowers on their heads as they are taken up to the dairies on the high mountain alps. Each fall, they are brought down from the summer dairies decorated with flowers and tree branches arranged on a